



Department of Justice

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VILLA POSSE CRIMINAL STREET GANG INDICTMENT

FRESNO—United States Attorney McGregor Scott; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) Special Agent-in-Charge Stephen K. Martin; Fresno County District Attorney Elizabeth A. Egan; and Fresno Chief of Police Jerry Dyer announced today that 14 members of the Villa Posse criminal street gang were indicted yesterday for conspiracy to distribute crack, methamphetamine, and marijuana; distribution and possession with intent to distribute crack, methamphetamine, and marijuana; using telephones in furtherance of drug trafficking; and felon in possession of a firearm. The following were charged:

CURTIS “CREEP” HENDRIX, 33; JERNELL “P-ROLLER” BEASLEY, 31;
DAMIEN “D” WITHERSPOON, 35; EDWARD “EDDIE” HATCHER, 62;
JONATHAN “JUM-JUM” GREENWOOD, 22; LESTER “LOCO LESS” GANT, 33;
KEONIE McGRUE, 27; AARON MULDREW, 44; MELVIN “POOKIE” WILBURN, 39;
ALLISON JONES, 21; JEROME “UD” WILLIAMS, 29; GINO “GENE” RIOS, 36;
ERNEST “RAIDER” PANOO, 53, all residents of Fresno.

This case is the product of a joint investigation of the Fresno Police Department; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the California Department of Justice Central Valley High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area; the California Department of Justice Special Services Unit; California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Fresno County Probation; and the Fresno County District Attorney’s Office.

According to Kimberly A. Sanchez, who is prosecuting the case, the Villa Posse gang operated from various locations including the Best Budget Motel on Parkway Drive in Fresno.

United States Attorney Scott stated, “We have said it before, and we will say it again. Local, state, and federal authorities are deadly serious in aggressively targeting violent street gangs in the Central Valley. The senseless, brutal violence perpetrated by gangs such as Villa Posse cannot and will not be tolerated.”

Fresno Police Chief Dyer said, “Dismantling the organizational structure of the largest African American gang in Fresno is a major step towards the elimination of gangs in our community and demonstrates our commitment towards a gang free, drug free Fresno”.

Of those charged, the following were arrested and are in custody: HENDRIX, WITHERSPOON, HATCHER, McGRUE, MULDREW, WILBURN, JONES, WILLIAMS, and PANO. .

If convicted, each defendant faces a maximum term of life in prison and a mandatory minimum term of 10 years in prison. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

The charges are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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